



## ENGL 1023

### Essay Assignment 2: Literacy Study

In this paper, you will answer one research question about your literacy experiences. Some possible research questions are:

- In what ways is \_\_\_ a literacy sponsor? (refer to Deborah Brandt’s “Sponsors of Literacy” in *Writing About Writing* for more information about literacy sponsors)
- In what ways is literacy a commodity/resource? Does it have monetary value?
- In what ways do some people have more access to literacy than others?
- Are there different kinds of literacy (e.g., technical literacy, artistic literacy, musical literacy)?

As with the previous assignment, use both your own experiences and your research. Also, your instructor may allow you to write in another genre, which may affect tone, length, and citation method.

#### **Introduction:**

Your introduction should identify the research question that you intend to address in your essay. It should also include your **thesis statement**, the broadly-stated “answer” to your research question.

Example of a research question: *In what ways can video games serve as literacy sponsors?*

Example of a thesis statement: *Video games act as literacy sponsors because they require players to read large amounts of text and remember that material for future events.*

#### **Body:**

The first part of your essay’s body should explain how you gathered your data to answer your research question (e.g., surveys, polls, research, interviews). If you drew on your own experiences, identify where those experiences came from.

Next, discuss the data you found. Present your data; then, analyze it in your own words. This section must have a good balance of evidence (your data) and analysis (your explanation of how that data helps answer your research question).

Example of evidence: *One game requires players to memorize a complex code that they must later use.*

Example of analysis: *Examples like this show how video games encourage players to read carefully and memorize new information—both crucial literacy skills.*

#### **Conclusion:**

Your conclusion should address the “so what” question—why does your essay matter?

Example: *Taking advantage of video games’ potential to teach reading and writing skills will give instructors a new way of fostering literacy.*

Note: Some instructors assign the Literacy Study as a group project. If this is the case, you will need to work with your teammate(s) to ensure the essay is consistent in tone.